

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 3: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY
FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. PORTUGAL: MODERATES INCREASE SUPPORT AMONG MILITARY

THE AIR FORCE ASSEMBLY BEING HELD SEPTEMBER 4 IS GIVEN
A GOOD CHANCE BY EMBASSY LISBON TO FOLLOW IN THE
FOOTSTEPS OF THE SEPTEMBER 2 ARMY ASSEMBLY IN OPPOSING
GONCALVES AND BOYCOTTING THE AFM ASSEMBLY. THE NAVY
ASSEMBLY, DOMINATED BY ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, IS
EXPECTED TO SUPPORT GONCALVES.

MEANWHILE, SOARES HAS GIVEN COSTA GOMES HIS DEMANDS
FOR JOINING THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH INCLUDE:

--THE OUSTING OF GONCALVES;

--LOCAL, UNION, AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS;

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--SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND THE SOCIALIST
ECONOMIC PLAN.

THE EMBASSY ALSO REPORTS THAT IT HAS BEEN APPROACHED

BY A PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE OFFICER WITH A REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING IF NECESSARY, JET ATTACK AIRCRAFT IN THE EVENT OF A COUP ATTEMPT. WHILE THE EMBASSY DISCOUNTS THE OFFICER'S CLAIM OF TIES WITH THE ANTUNES GROUP, IT REPORTS THAT REQUEST AS AN INDICATION OF THE EXTREME THINKING NOW GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE STRATEGY OF THE ANTUNES NINE SEEMS TO BE MOVING ALONG STEADILY, ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST OPPOSITION IS STILL VERY STRONG. A MAJOR DANGER NOW IS A PREEMPTIVE COUP ATTEMPT BY THE FAR RIGHT, OF WHICH THERE ARE INCREASING INDICATIONS.

--THE FAR RIGHT MAY WISH TO STRIKE FIRST BEFORE THE ANTUNES GROUP CAN TAKE OVER.

--A RIGHTIST ATTEMPT WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE FAR LEFT BY FORCING THE ANTUNES GROUP TO JOIN WITH THE PCP, WHICH WOULD LEAVE PORTUGAL BACK WHERE IT WAS AFTER THE MARCH 11 FIASCO.

(SEE ITEM 1 OF THE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY)

2. PALESTINIANS IN DISARRAY OVER SINAI ACCORD

DESPITE A RISE IN THE PALESTINIAN VOICE LEVEL ON THE INTERIM AGREEMENT, EMBASSY BEIRUT SEES EVIDENCE OF DISUNITY IN THE REFUGEE ACTIVISTS' RANKS CONCERNING THE ISSUE. THE EMBASSY REPORTS:

--ARAFAT HAS CONTINUED TO SOFT-PEDAL THE EGYPTIAN ROLE IN THE SINAI ACCORD, WHILE ATTACKING THE USG AND EMPHASIZING THE PIVOTAL POSITION OF THE PALESTINIANS.

--HIS "MODERATE" ALLIES, INCLUDING SOME WITHIN FATAH ITSELF, ARE LESS RESTRAINED IN THEIR REMARKS ABOUT EGYPT.

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--THE PDFLP, WHICH DESPITE ITS MARXISM IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED "MODERATE", SPONSORED A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS EASY TO DISMISS THE RISING PALESTINIAN CLAMOR AS SOUND AND FURY SIGNIFYING NOTHING. IN REALITY, IT REFLECTS THE CURRENT MALAISE OF THE PALESTINIANS IN A SITUATION WHERE ONLY THE "REJECTIONISTS" SEEM TO KNOW WHERE THEY ARE GOING. ARAFAT IS ENCOUNTERING OPPOSITION TO HIS STRATEGY OF DOWNPLAYING EGYPT'S ROLE. HOWEVER, HE HAS LITTLE OPTION FOR EFFECTIVE INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN ACTION OTHER THAN A MOVE TOWARD RADICALISM THAT WOULD DEPRIVE HIM OF HIS POSITION AS A "STATESMAN."

3.SPAIN: PRINCE BLAMES FRANCO FOR SLOW PROGRESS
IN BASE TALKS

IN A SEPTEMBER 3 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER,
PRINCE JUAN CARLOS SAID THAT THE LACK OF PROGRESS
IN US-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS WAS DUE PARTLY TO
THE SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AND STAGNATION BROUGHT
ABOUT BY FRANCO'S CONTINUED PRESENCE AS CHIEF OF STATE.
THE PRINCE ADDED THAT HE:

--PREFERRED NOT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE AGREEMENT; AND
--WANTED TO DEFER HIS TRIP TO THE US UNTIL AFTER THE
NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED.

ON OTHER SUBJECTS, THE PRINCE:

--CLAIMED TO HAVE NO INDICATIONS FROM RECENT MEETINGS
WITH FRANCO THAT FRANCO PLANNED TO TURN OVER POWER
TO HIM;

--EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SIGNS OF RESTLESSNESS AND
DISUNITY IN THE ARMED FORCES;

--OPINED THAT A POST-FRANCO GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO
BE MADE UP OF NEW FACES NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE FRANCO
REGIME.

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4. FRANCE: A SAUVAGNARGUES ROUNDUP

DURING A LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR HUMPHREY,
FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES MADE THE FOLLOWING
OBSERVATIONS:

--THE SECRETARY'S ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ARRIVING AT AN
INTERIM AGREEMENT IS A "SPLENDID" ONE.

--FRANCE IS MORE WILLING THAN GERMANY OR OTHER EC
PARTNERS TO PRESS THE TURKS FOR CONCESSIONS WHICH MIGHT
GET A GENUINE AGREEMENT GOING WITH THE GREEKS ON CYPRUS,
BUT THE OUTLOOK IS NOT GOOD.

--FRANCE WILL WELCOME A GOOD SALT AGREEMENT AND HAS
NO FEAR OF ANY US-SOVIET CONDOMINIUM.

--FRANCE HAILS WHAT IT REGARDS AS A SHIFT IN US POLICY
AWAY FROM A DESIRE TO BREAK UP OPEC.

SAUVAGNARGUES STRESSED THE NEARNESS OF US AND FRENCH
POLICY ON NUMEROUS SUBJECTS AND DECLARED THAT THE DAYS

OF "COCK FIGHTS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS" ARE OVER AND DONE WITH.

5. TURKEY IMPOSES NEW RESTRICTIONS ON US MILITARY ACTIVITIES

IN A SEPTEMBER 1 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MACOMBER, MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG STATED THAT:

--THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS VOID AS A RESULT OF CONGRESS' ACTION IN SUSPENDING MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR TURKEY, WHICH PREVENTS TURKEY FROM HONORING ITS PLEDGE IN THE TREATY TO PROVIDE FOR ITS OWN SELF DEFENSE.

--THE 1954 TAX RELIEF AGREEMENT WAS LIKEWISE TERMINATED.

--JUSMMAT PERSONNEL ARE NO LONGER PROTECTED BY THE NATO-STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT, (SOFA).

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IN A NEW DEPARTURE, ELEKDAG SAID THAT US MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING IN PREDOMINANTLY BILATERAL CAPACITIES WERE NOT COVERED BY NATO SOFA, A VIEW WHICH THE AMBASSADOR STRONGLY CHALLENGED AND ELEKDAG DID NOT PURSUE.

6. SCATTERED VIOLENCE IN LEBANON INCREASES

EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT TENSION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF LEBANON IS MOUNTING:

--ZAHLE COMMUNITY LEADERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO KEEP THE LID ON A VOLATILE SITUATION, BUT DISCOVERY OF MORE BODIES AND REPORTS OF NEW KIDNAPPINGS HAVE HEIGHTENED THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED VIOLENCE.

--A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN TRIPOLI ESCALATED INTO A CLASH BETWEEN MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN GUNMEN, WITH ORDER BEING RESTORED ONLY AFTER THE PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF FRANGIE AND KARAME.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THESE SEPARATE INCIDENTS, AND THE PALESTINIAN AGITATION IN BEIRUT AND THE SOUTH, HAVE NOT YET COMBINED INTO A SINGLE WAVE OF VIOLENCE, BUT THE POTENTIAL EXISTS FOR MORE SERIOUS TROUBLE.

7 ARGENTINA: NEW PARTY LEADERSHIP SPUTTERS INTO ACTION

URGING A RETURN TO CONSENSUS POLITICS, THE PERONIST PARTY ON AUGUST 29 ISSUED A 12 POINT GUIDE FOR ACTION WHICH, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES, WAS MOST NOTABLE FOR ITS CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES. WHILE CALLING

FOR A CONSOLIDATION OF THE PERONIST COALITION, THE DOCUMENT CONCURRENTLY INDICATES A DESIRE TO RESUSCITATE THE LOOSE GROUPING OF DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, WHICH CERTAIN STRAINS WITHIN THE PARTY OPPOSE. MEANWHILE, GENERAL DISSENSION WITHIN THE PERONIST RANKS HAS INCREASED AS THE "ANTIVERTICALISTAS" WHO WALKED OUT OF THE AUGUST 23 PARTY CONGRESS, HAVE ORGANIZED A GROUP SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO OPPOSE THE PARTY LEADERSHIP.

8. SAUDI/EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION?
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A GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED SUDANESE NEWSPAPER REPRINTED ON SEPTEMBER 2 AN ARTICLE FROM THE EGYPTIAN WEEKLY AKHIR SAA THAT SPECULATES ON THE FORMALIZATION OF A TRILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP AMONG SAUDI ARABIA (WHICH HAS MONEY), EGYPT (TECHNICIANS AND MANPOWER), AND THE SUDAN (UNEXPLOITED ARABLE LAND).

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE REPLAY OF THE STORY IN THE SUDANESE PRESS INDICATES HIGH EXPECTATIONS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL SOON HAVE SOMETHING TO ANNOUNCE ON THE RESULTS OF NIMEIRI'S MEETING WITH KHALID. KISSINGER

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